<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. and 2.   (canceled).

3. (previously presented): An image processing apparatus comprising:

a first acquisition section, arranged to acquire color data of an object;

a second acquisition section, arranged to acquire spectral distribution data, which is necessary to estimate spectral distribution data of a total wavelength region, from a plurality of spectral distribution data in accordance with the acquired color data; and

an estimator, arranged to estimate the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region on the basis of the spectral distribution data acquired by said second acquisition section.

4. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein <u>the</u> spectral distribution data acquired by said second acquisition section is defined as a combination of the spectral distribution data.

5. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a generator arranged to generate the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region from the color data acquired by said first acquisition section and the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region estimated by said estimator.

6.(currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~the combination of the color data and the~~ a configuration of the spectral distribution data acquired by said second acquisition section, which is necessary to estimate spectral distribution data of color data, is predetermined.

7. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the spectral distribution data acquired by said second acquisition section is arbitrarily changeable.

8. and 9.   (canceled).

10. (currently amended): An image processing method comprising the steps of:

acquiring color data of an object;

acquiring [[a]] spectral distribution data, which is necessary to estimate spectral distribution data of a total wavelength region, from plurality of spectral distribution data in accordance with the acquired color data; and

estimating the spectral distribution data of the total wavelength region on the basis of the spectral distribution data acquired in the second acquiring step.

11. - 13.   (canceled).